

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 711

By Casada

A RESOLUTION to commemorate March 2018 as Amyloidosis Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, amyloidosis is a rare disease of which there are several types, one of which is similar to a blood cancer and another that is commonly inherited. This combination of all types of amyloidosis affects approximately 10,000 people in the United States, 500 of whom live in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, an abnormal protein produced either in the bone marrow or liver travels through the blood stream, depositing as amyloid in various organs, primarily the heart, nervous system, intestines, and kidneys, causing the organs to fail over time; and

WHEREAS, the median length of survival for an amyloidosis patient who does not receive treatment is less than three years. Many patients go undiagnosed every year, and special initiatives, such as this resolution, can both raise public awareness and save lives; and

WHEREAS, there have been advances in the treatment of amyloidosis that have extended life expectancy, but currently, there are no drugs approved for the destruction of amyloid; and

WHEREAS, the early diagnosis of amyloidosis in conjunction with prompt treatments not only improves quality of life, but extends life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, there are a limited number of amyloidosis treatment centers in Tennessee that specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of amyloidosis patients, but, fortunately, we have two world class centers, with Vanderbilt University Medical Center being the largest treatment center and the University of Tennessee Medical Center-Knoxville being the largest NIH-funded research center in Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the many special organizations, healthcare professionals, and facilities across Tennessee as they commemorate the month of March 2018 as Amyloidosis Awareness Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.